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Diana T Fritz 03/15/2007 03:07:49 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

March 09, 2004

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 643 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: GREATER MIDDLE EAST/IRAQ/HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00643

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM
Laser1:
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB
CLEARED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER

VZCZCADI459
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #0643/01 0690355
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 090355Z MAR 04
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3452
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON//PASS TO MOC// 0775
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0810
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 000643

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GREATER MIDDLE EAST/IRAQ/HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT

11. SUMMARY: THE NEW U.S. "GREATER MIDDLE EAST" INITIATIVE AND THE SITUATION IN IRAQ DOMINATED COVERAGE IN UAE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. AN EDITORIAL IN "AL KHALEEJ" NOTED THAT THE ARAB ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE AMERICAN PROJECT WAS "DIVIDED, AS USUAL." ANOTHER EDITORIAL IN "AL KHALEEJ" POINTED OUT THAT THE AMERICAN TROOPS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRES IN IRAQ. ALSO, THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY THE GULF NEWS' BUREAU CHIEF, NADEEM KAWACH UNDER A VERY POSITIVE TITLE. END SUMMARY.

12. COMMENTING ON POSTPONING THE SIGNING OF THE INTERIM IRAQI CONSTITUTION AND NOTING THAT ALL CONFLICT SHOULD STOP, ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 03/07:

". DOES THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, THAT IS SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT IRAQ, NEED TO BE REMINDED THAT IRAQ'S HIGHEST INTEREST NEEDS MORE COOPERATION, HONEST EFFORTS, AND REALISTIC STEPS TO ACHIEVE IRAQ'S UNITY AND TO IMPLEMENT PLANS TO RE-BUILD IRAQ WITHOUT EXCLUDING ANY PARTY OR RELIGION FROM THESE PREPARATIONS, AND THAT ALL ARE IRAQIS AND THEY ARE ALL IN ONE BOAT?"

13. NOTING THE ARAB ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE "GREATER MIDDLE EAST" INITIATIVE, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 03/06:

". IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE ARAB ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE AMERICAN PROJECT WAS DIVIDED, AS USUAL, WHEN DEALING WITH ANY SIMILAR PROJECT. SOME DISAPPROVE WITH SHAME, SOME APPROVE IN SECRET, AND SOME ARE CONFUSED BETWEEN APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL, AND EVERYONE IS TRYING NOT TO GET THE U.S. ANGRY, ALTHOUGH WHAT IS PUT FORWARD INCLUDES EVERYONE AS A WHOLE."

14. COMMENTING ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 03/06:

". THE 'PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST' PHRASE NO LONGER EXISTS AND IS LOST BETWEEN ALL THE OTHER MANIPULATIVE PHRASES SHARON IS USING TO CURTAIN THE WORLD'S SIGHT FROM THE DESPERATE SITUATION IN PALESTINE, WHICH IS A RESULT OF HIS POLICY THAT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN THE PALESTINIAN LANDS."

15. NOTING THAT WITH NO SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE, THERE WILL BE NO REFORM, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED 03/05:

". ARABS DO NOT HATE REFORM, BUT THEY DISAPPROVE OF REFORM BEING IMPOSED ON THEM FROM THE OUTSIDE. THE GENERAL ARAB OPINION WANTS REFORM TO ORIGINATE FROM ITS OWN WILL, NOT FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S WILLS AND THOUGHTS THAT MIGHT NOT BE SIMILAR TO OUR CUSTOMS AND ISLAMIC BELIEFS. IF WE ARE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO COMPLETE REFORM THEN WE CAN'T IGNORE MIDDLE EAST ISSUES, ESPECIALLY THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE WHICH IS 'THE MOTHER OF ALL CAUSES.' WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT A BIGGER AND MORE REFORMED MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT THE REGION'S CRISES THAT INCLUDE WMD NOW, SINCE ISRAEL'S WEAPONS ARE INCREASING. THERE IS ARAB ACCEPTANCE OF REFORM, BUT THERE IS A MAJOR POINT IN REFORM WHICH SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED AND THAT IS THE 'ABSENT' PEACE."

16. UNDER THE HEADLINE "SO IRAQ WILL REMAIN FOR IRAQIS," "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 03/04:

". IT IS JUST NORMAL TO PLACE THE BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN BAGHDAD AND KARBULA ON THE AMERICAN TROOPS, SINCE THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING SECURITY FOR IRAQIS BY INTERNATIONAL LAW. IT IS NOT FAR FROM TRUTH THAT ISRAEL MIGHT HAVE A HAND IN THIS MASSACRE AND PLANNING FOR IT SINCE IT IS THE NUMBER ONE BENEFICIARY. THIS CONFLICT SERVES BOTH SIDES, THE FIRST (U.S.) USING THE EXCUSE OF ENSURING IRAQI SECURITY, WILL CONTINUE ITS OCCUPATION IN IRAQ FOR AN UNKNOWN TIME, THE SECOND (ISRAEL) WILL SPREAD ITS ARMS TO POUR OIL ON FIRE. WHAT IS REQUESTED FROM IRAQIS, ALL IRAQIS, IS UNITY OF WORD, OVERCOMING CONFLICTS, AND RISING ABOVE ALL PAINS AND WOUNDS SO IRAQ WILL REMAIN A UNITED COUNTRY FOR ALL IRAQIS AND IN ORDER TO DEFEAT ALL EVIL PROJECTS DIRECTED TO THEIR COUNTRY."

17. DUBAI-BASED ENGLISH DAILY "GULF NEWS" CARRIED A PROMINENT ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ITS BUREAU CHIEF NADIM KAWACH ON 03/04 UNDER THE HEADLINE "US PRAISES UAE'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD," AND SUB

HEADLINE "DUBAI'S PRISON CARE PLAN COMMENDED":

"THE UNITED STATES HAS PRAISED THE UAE'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO ENSURE BETTER PRISON CONDITIONS AND BAN ON TORTURE. THE DEPARTMENT WHICH IS ALWAYS CRITICAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS IN MOST OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ALSO HIGHLIGHTED DUBAI'S 'VICTIM CARE' PROGRAM."
WAHBA